DARK HORSE CLASSICS™

DARK HORSE CLASSICS

GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS 5

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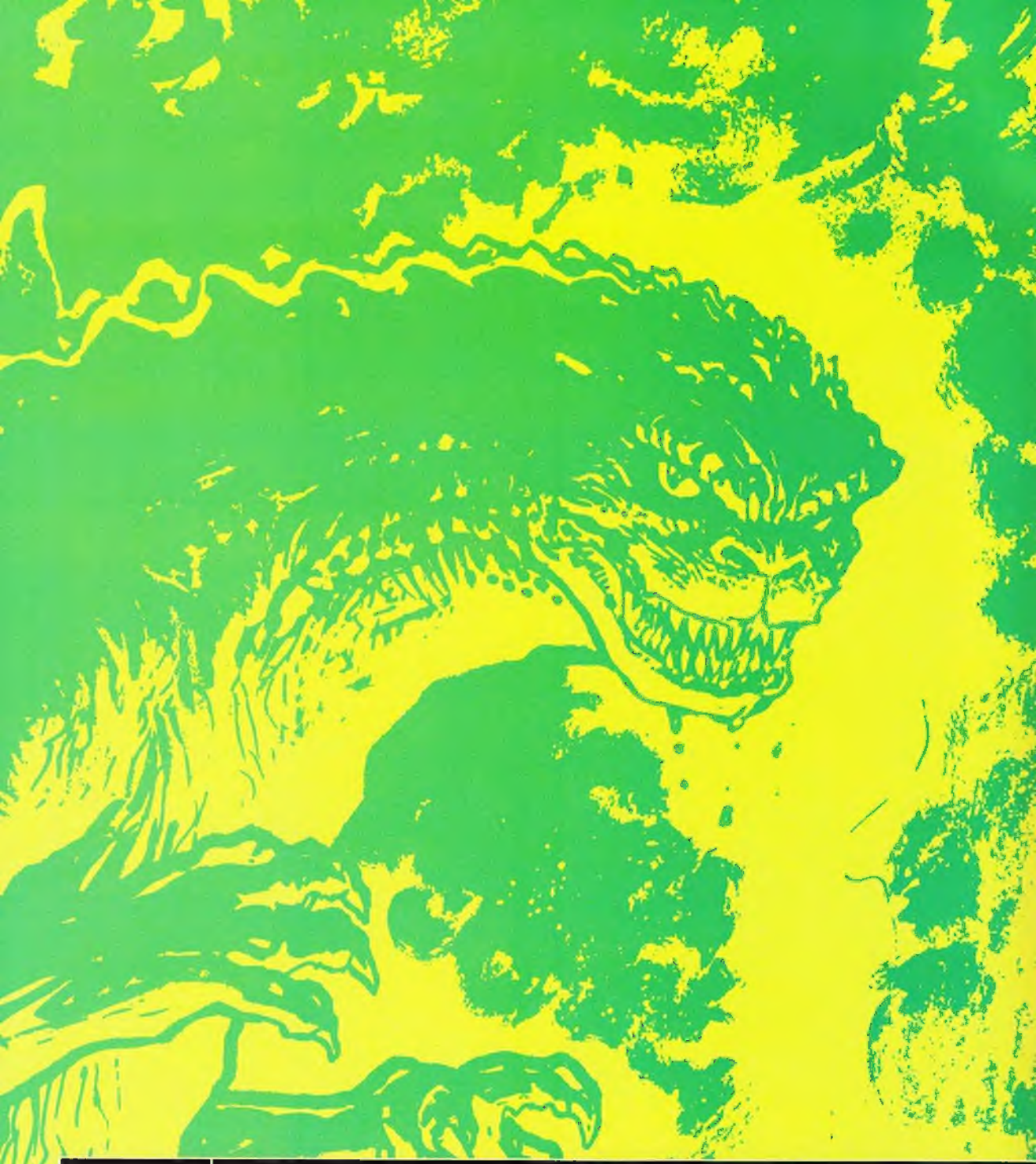
GODZILLA KING OF THE MONSTERS®

VERSUS BAGORAH THE SPACE BAT!



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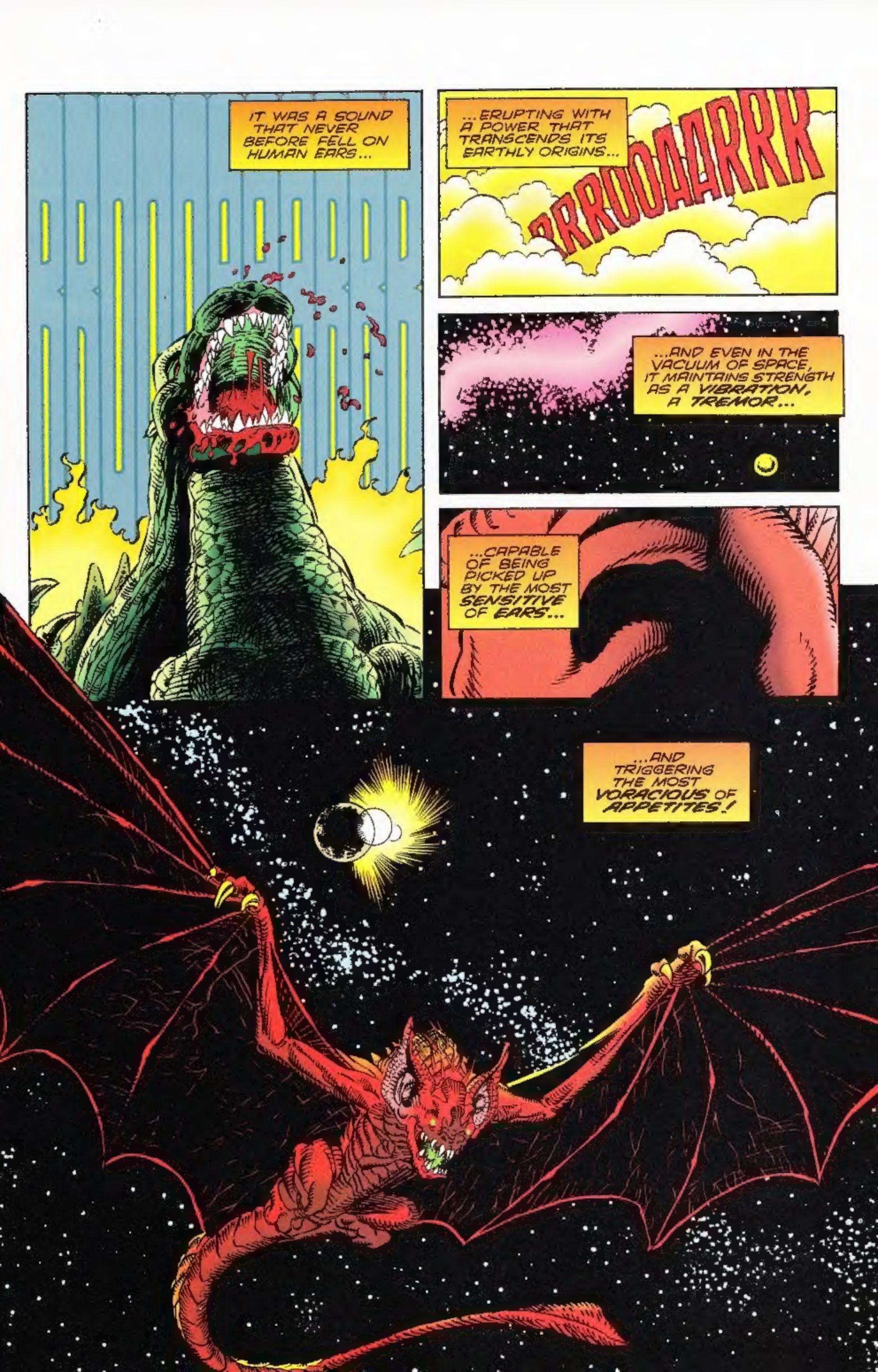
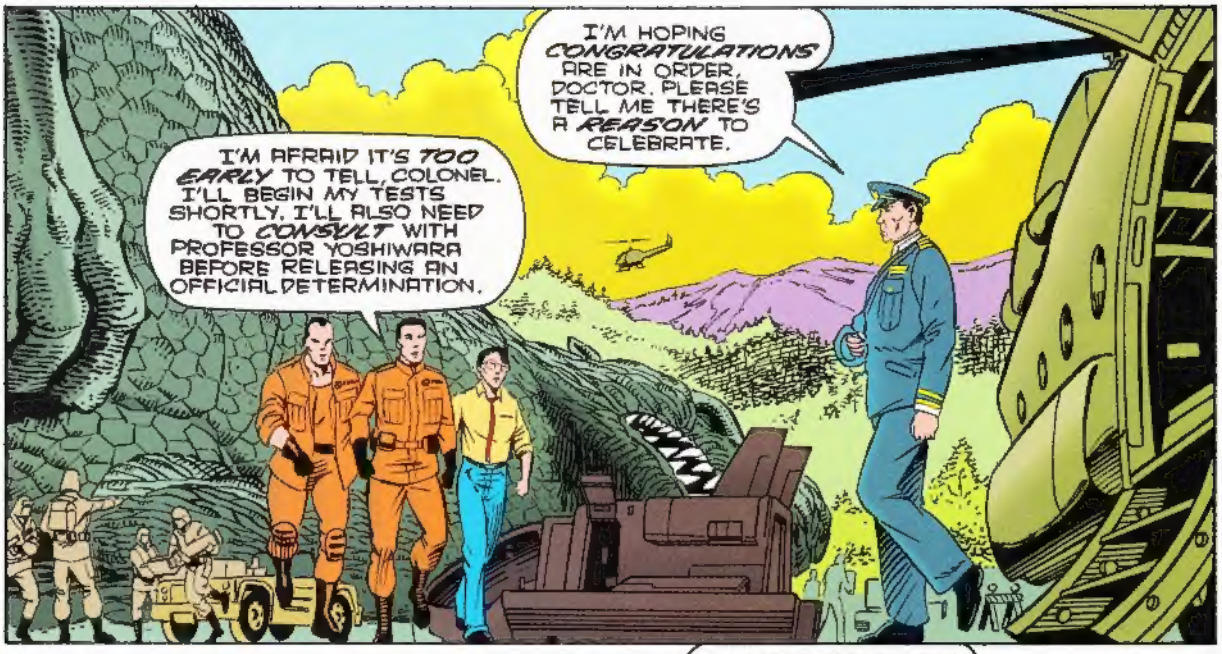
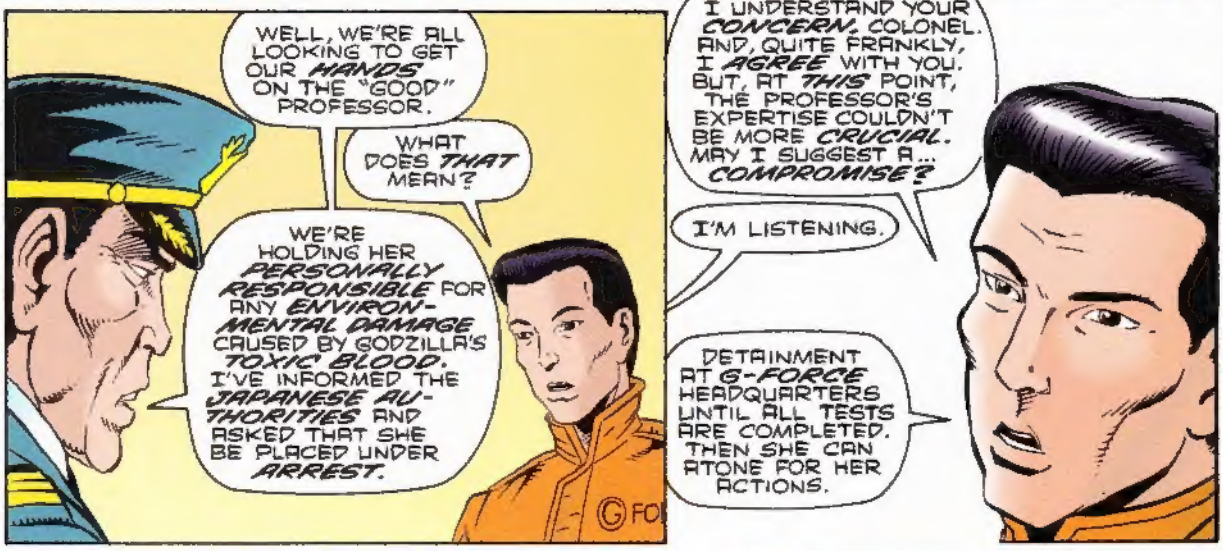

IT WAS A SOUND THAT NEVER BEFORE FELL ON HUMAN EARS...
...ERUPTING WITH A POWER THAT TRANSCENDS ITS EARTHLY ORIGINS...
RRUDDARRK
...AND EVEN IN THE VACUUM OF SPACE, IT MAINTAINS STRENGTH AS A VIBRATION, A TREMOR...
...CAPABLE OF BEING PICKED UP BY THE MOST SENSITIVE OF EARS...
...AND TRIGGERING THE MOST VORACIOUS OF APPETITES!

LONG LIVE THE KING!

5:45 A.M. SIX MILES NORTHWEST OF VANCOUVER...

KEVIN MAGUIRE: SCRIPT
BRANDON McKINNEY: PENCILS
SCOTT REED: INKS
PAT BROSSEAU: LETTERS
ALBERT DESCHESNE: COLORS
ROBERT V. CONTE: EDITS

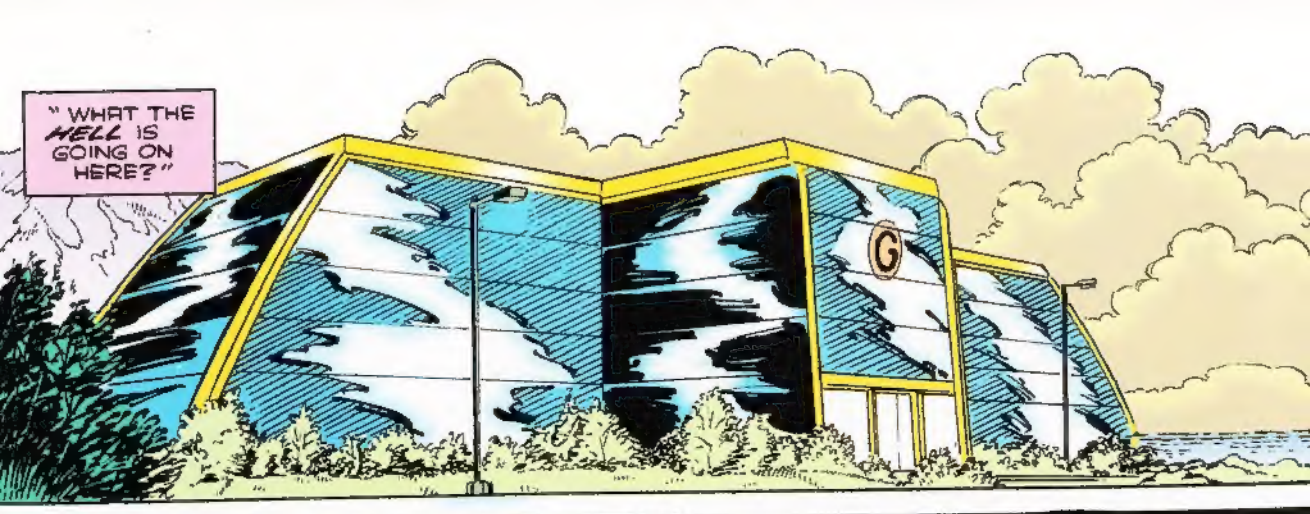

I'M HOPING CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER, DOCTOR. PLEASE TELL ME THERE'S A REASON TO CELEBRATE.
I'M AFRAID IT'S TOO EARLY TO TELL, COLONEL. I'LL BEGIN MY TESTS SHORTLY. I'LL ALSO NEED TO CONSULT WITH PROFESSOR YOSHIWARA BEFORE RELEASING AN OFFICIAL DETERMINATION.


WELL, WE'RE ALL LOOKING TO GET OUR HANDS ON THE "GOOD" PROFESSOR.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WE'RE HOLDING HER PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY GODZILLA'S TOXIC BLOOD. I'VE INFORMED THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES AND ASKED THAT SHE BE PLACED UNDER ARREST.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN, COLONEL. AND, QUITE FRANKLY, I AGREE WITH YOU. BUT, AT THIS POINT, THE PROFESSOR'S EXPERTISE COULDN'T BE MORE CRUCIAL. MAY I SUGGEST A... COMPROMISE?
I'M LISTENING.
DETAINMENT AT G-FORCE HEADQUARTERS UNTIL ALL TESTS ARE COMPLETED. THEN SHE CAN ATONE FOR HER ACTIONS.

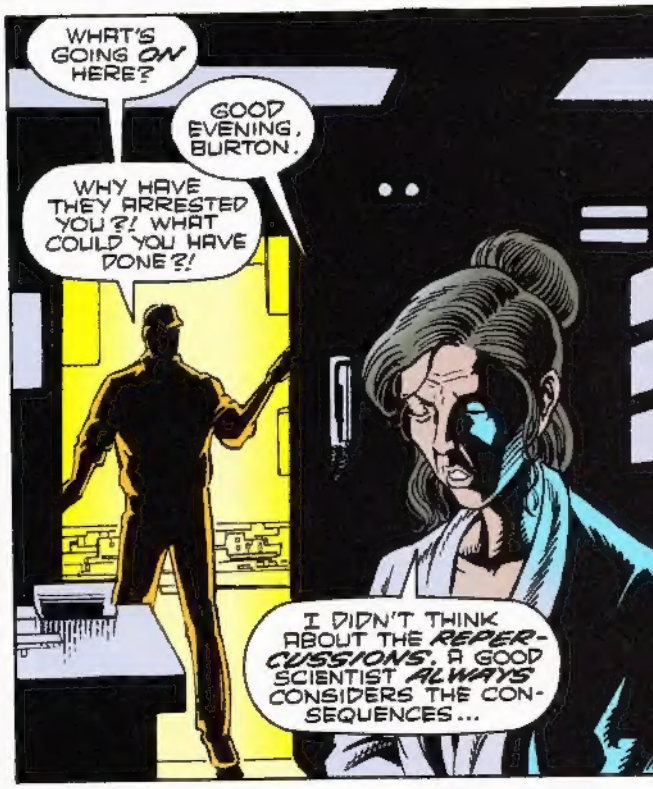
THAT WORKS FOR ME, BUT YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR HER, IS THAT CLEAR?
YES, IT IS.
GOOD. NOW LET'S DISCUSS THIS BEACON FIASCO--

WE HAD A MALFUNCTION, THAT'S ALL.
THEN WHY IS THE PRESS SCREAMING "SABOTAGE" ALL OVER THE TELEVISION?

I'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT, SIR.


"WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?"

PROFESSOR YOSHIWARA HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER ARREST, SIR.
FOR WHAT?
I'M NOT AN ATTORNEY, MR. HELZER. I'M ONLY FOLLOWING ORDERS.
AAAAHH! LET ME THROUGH, YOU JARHEADS!


WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
GOOD EVENING, BURTON.
WHY HAVE THEY ARRESTED YOU?! WHAT COULD YOU HAVE DONE?!
I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THE REPERCUSSIONS. A GOOD SCIENTIST ALWAYS CONSIDERS THE CONSEQUENCES...

DON'T GIVE IN TO THEM--
ALL I THOUGHT ABOUT WAS KILLING GODZILLA. I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT OTHER LIVES-- HUMAN LIVES...

LIVES?! YOU MAY HAVE SAVED MILLIONS OF THEM! YOU STOPPED THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE FORCE THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN!

DID I?

LATER THAT AFTERNOON, AT THE LOCATION DUBBED "CAMP GODZILLA"...

...IT'S HER *JOB*, KINO. SHE'S A *REPORTER*, SO SHE HEARD NEWS AND REPORTED IT, UNDERSTAND?

I UNDERSTAND THAT SHE MAKES OUR JOB MORE *DIFFICULT!* I THINK WHAT SHE DID WAS *DIS-HONORABLE.*

WE WERE IN *HER* HELICOPTER!

SHE WAS *EAVES-DROPPING!* SHE HAD NO *RIGHT!*

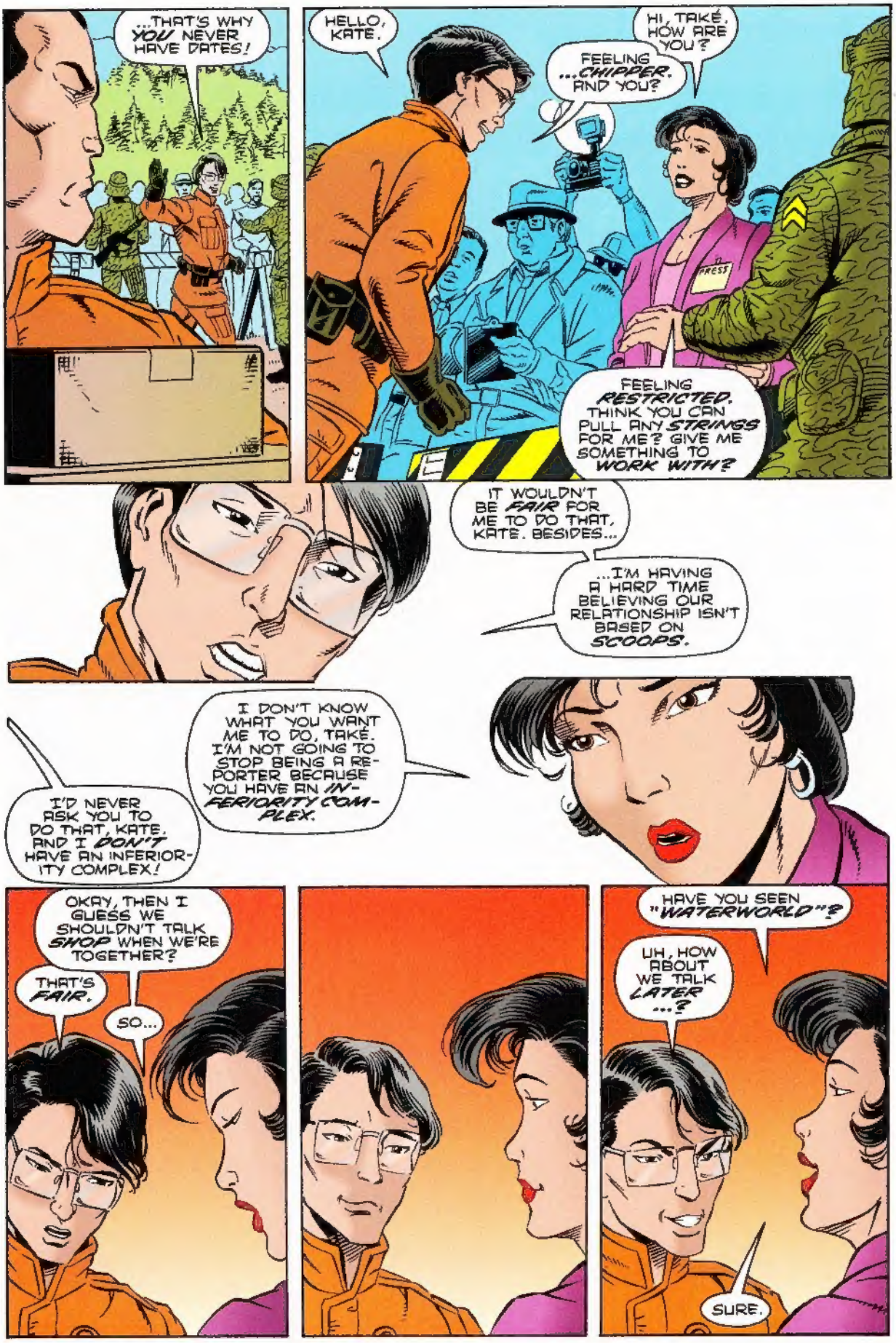
TAKE OVER *HERE!*

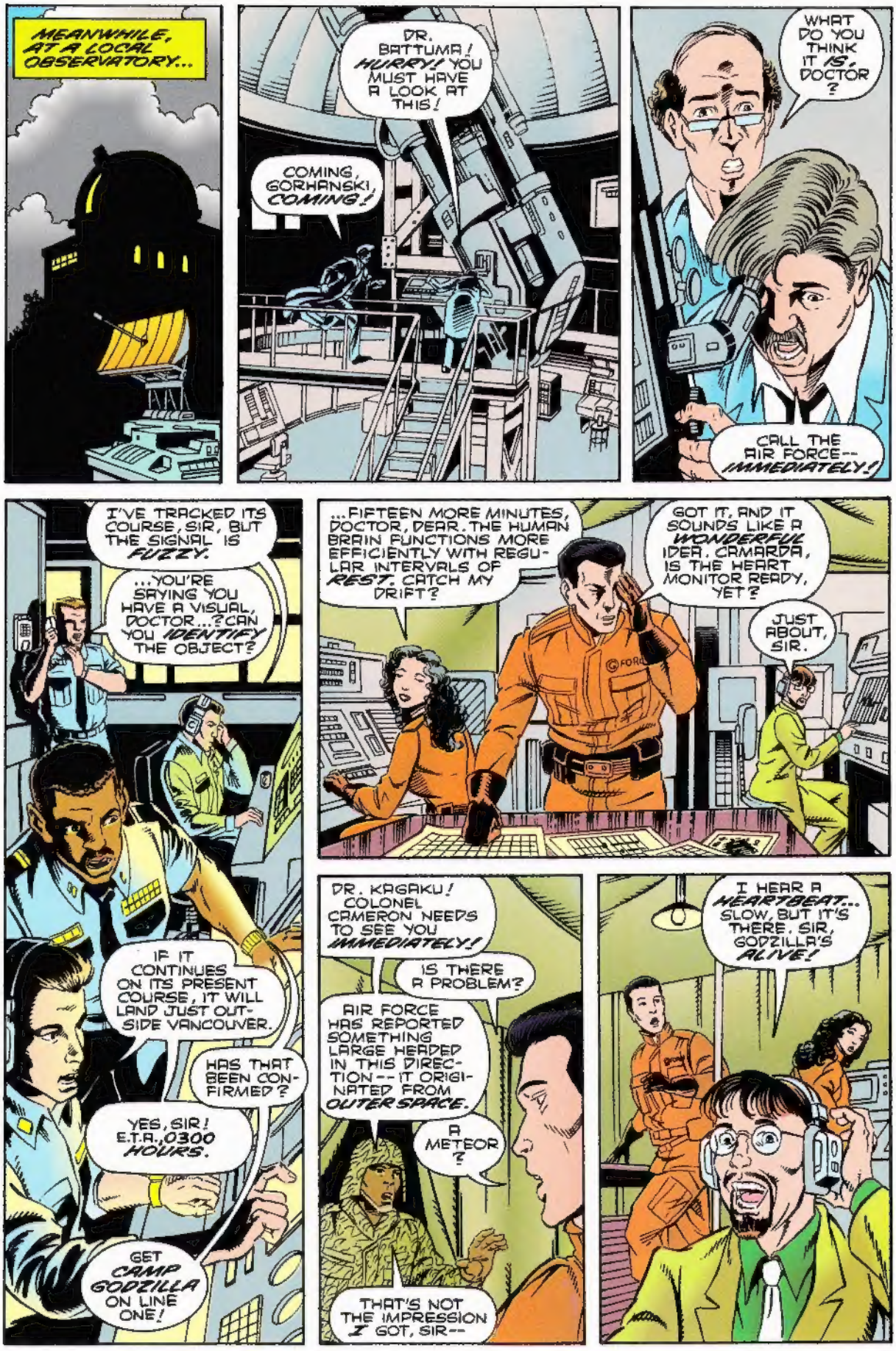
FEEDING TIME.

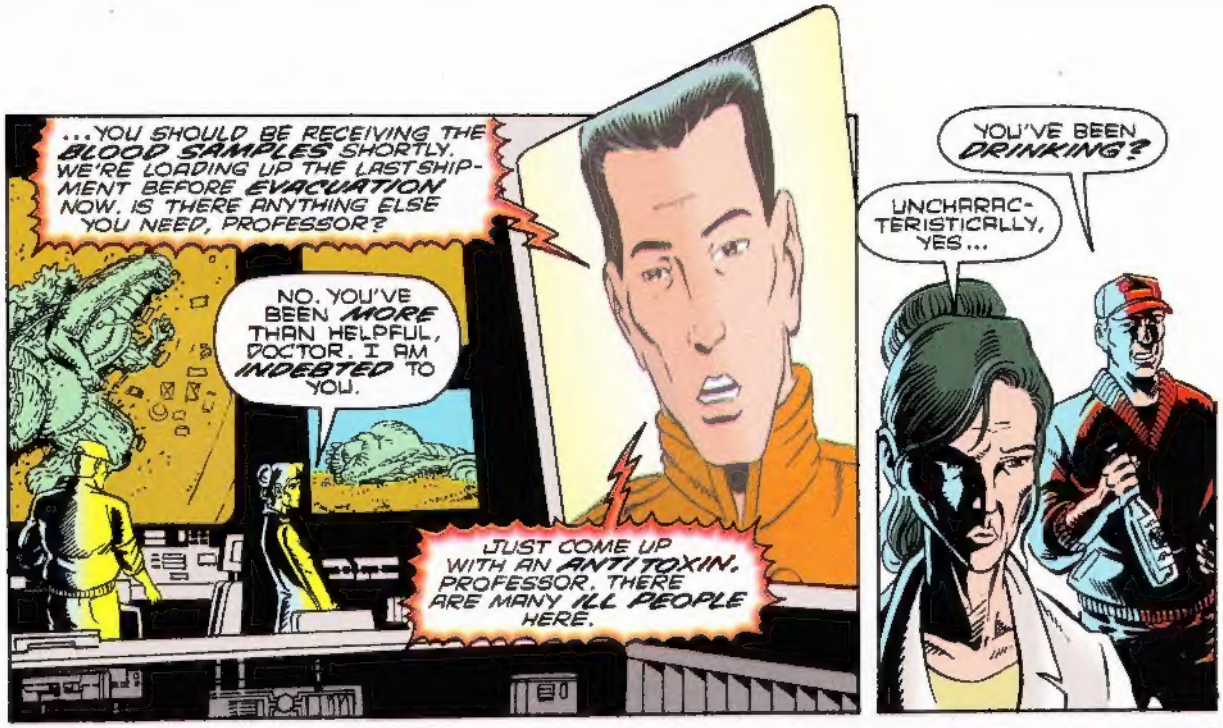
MAYBE SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT *ME!* WHY IS THAT SO IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE?

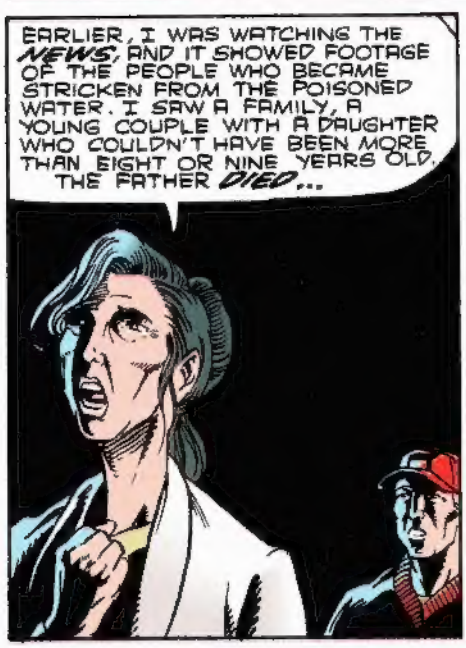
WHEN THEY ANNOUNCE THAT YOU'RE FEELING *"CHIPPER"* ON THE EVENING NEWS, I'LL TRUST HER MOTIVES.

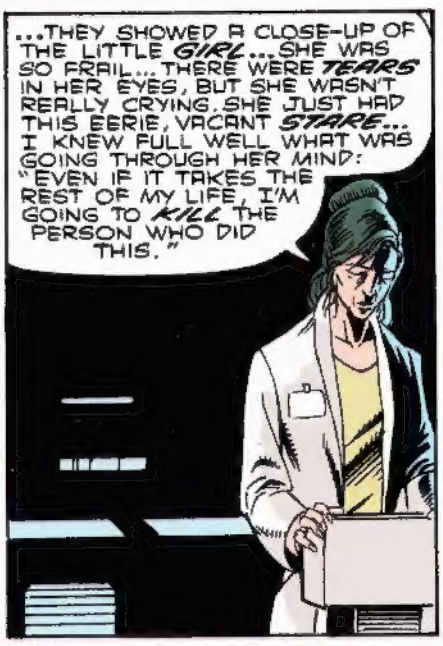
YOU HAVE A *LOUSY* ATTITUDE...


...THAT'S WHY YOU NEVER HAVE DATES!
HELLO, KATE.
HI, TAKE. HOW ARE YOU?
FEELING ...CHIPPER. AND YOU?
PRESS
FEELING RESTRICTED. THINK YOU CAN PULL ANY STRINGS FOR ME? GIVE ME SOMETHING TO WORK WITH?
IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR FOR ME TO DO THAT, KATE. BESIDES...
...I'M HAVING A HARD TIME BELIEVING OUR RELATIONSHIP ISN'T BASED ON SCOOPS.
I'D NEVER ASK YOU TO DO THAT, KATE. AND I DON'T HAVE AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO, TAKE. I'M NOT GOING TO STOP BEING A REPORTER BECAUSE YOU HAVE AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX.
OKAY, THEN I GUESS WE SHOULDN'T TALK SHOP WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER?
THAT'S FAIR.
SO...
HAVE YOU SEEN "WATERWORLD"?
UH, HOW ABOUT WE TALK LATER ...?
SURE.

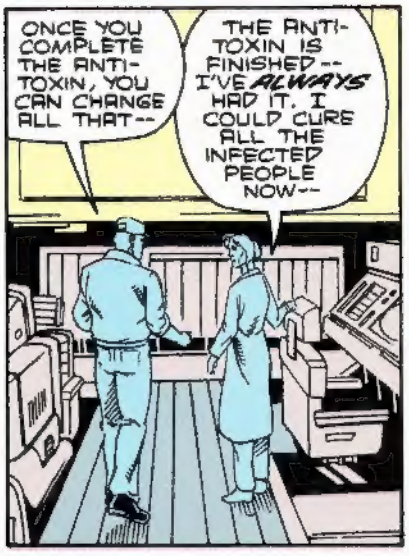

MEANWHILE, AT A LOCAL OBSERVATORY...
DR. BATTUMA! HURRY! YOU MUST HAVE A LOOK AT THIS!
COMING, GORHANSKI, COMING!
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS, DOCTOR?
CALL THE AIR FORCE-- IMMEDIATELY!
I'VE TRACKED ITS COURSE, SIR, BUT THE SIGNAL IS FUZZY.
...YOU'RE SAYING YOU HAVE A VISUAL, DOCTOR...? CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE OBJECT?
IF IT CONTINUES ON ITS PRESENT COURSE, IT WILL LAND JUST OUTSIDE VANCOUVER.
HAS THAT BEEN CONFIRMED?
YES, SIR! E.T.A., 0300 HOURS.
GET CAMP GODZILLA ON LINE ONE!
...FIFTEEN MORE MINUTES, DOCTOR, DEAR. THE HUMAN BRAIN FUNCTIONS MORE EFFICIENTLY WITH REGULAR INTERVALS OF REST. CATCH MY DRIFT?
GOT IT, AND IT SOUNDS LIKE A WONDERFUL IDEA. CAMARDA, IS THE HEART MONITOR READY, YET?
JUST ABOUT, SIR.
DR. KAGAKU! COLONEL CAMERON NEEDS TO SEE YOU IMMEDIATELY!
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
AIR FORCE HAS REPORTED SOMETHING LARGE HEADED IN THIS DIRECTION -- IT ORIGINATED FROM OUTER SPACE.
A METEOR?
THAT'S NOT THE IMPRESSION I GOT, SIR--
I HEAR A HEARTBEAT... SLOW, BUT IT'S THERE. SIR, GODZILLA'S ALIVE!


...YOU SHOULD BE RECEIVING THE BLOOD SAMPLES SHORTLY. WE'RE LOADING UP THE LAST SHIPMENT BEFORE EVACUATION NOW. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED, PROFESSOR?
NO. YOU'VE BEEN MORE THAN HELPFUL, DOCTOR. I AM INDEBTED TO YOU.
JUST COME UP WITH AN ANTITOXIN, PROFESSOR. THERE ARE MANY ILL PEOPLE HERE.
YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING?
UNCHARACTERISTICALLY, YES...


EARLIER, I WAS WATCHING THE NEWS, AND IT SHOWED FOOTAGE OF THE PEOPLE WHO BECAME STRICKEN FROM THE POISONED WATER. I SAW A FAMILY, A YOUNG COUPLE WITH A DAUGHTER WHO COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE THAN EIGHT OR NINE YEARS OLD. THE FATHER DIED...


...THEY SHOWED A CLOSE-UP OF THE LITTLE GIRL... SHE WAS SO FRAIL... THERE WERE TEARS IN HER EYES, BUT SHE WASN'T REALLY CRYING. SHE JUST HAD THIS EERIE, VACANT STARE... I KNEW FULL WELL WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH HER MIND: "EVEN IF IT TAKES THE REST OF MY LIFE, I'M GOING TO KILL THE PERSON WHO DID THIS."

EVEN IF SHE DIDN'T DRINK THE WATER, SHE'S POISONED...


ONCE YOU COMPLETE THE ANTI-TOXIN, YOU CAN CHANGE ALL THAT--
THE ANTI-TOXIN IS FINISHED -- I'VE ALWAYS HAD IT. I COULD CURE ALL THE INFECTED PEOPLE NOW--

BUT IT WON'T END THERE, WILL IT? GODZILLA'S HEART IS STILL BEATING, STILL PUMPING OUT TOXIC BLOOD--

ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULD INJECT GODZILLA? WOULDN'T THAT BE IRONIC?
NO, NORIKO, IT WOULD BE THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

TARGET SIGHTED, SIR! INTERCEPTORS ARE IN THE AIR!
SIR, I THINK WE'RE IN TROUBLE!
EVERYONE GET INTO A SECURE AREA! CAPTAIN -- PUT THE TROOPS ON STANDBY!
YES, SIR!
OKAY, KINO, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ON. GOOD LUCK, AND TRY NOT TO WAKE GODZILLA!
OH, PLEASE, DOCTOR -- DON'T EVEN JOKE ABOUT THAT!

"THIS IS A NEW ONE TO ME, DOCTOR. LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU?"
"WHAT DO WE CALL IT?"
"THE AIR FORCE HAS BEEN REFERRING TO IT AS BAGORAH, AFTER THE SCIENTISTS WHO FIRST SPOTTED IT."
"INTERESTING FIFTEEN MINUTES OF FAME, EH?"
IT SEEMS TO BE ASSESSING THE ENVIRONMENT...
YES--ITS MOVEMENTS SUGGEST A PREDATOR...
IF YOU ASK ME, IT'S ACTING LIKE A BIG OL' BUZZARD.
I SEE IT, DOCTOR.
GIVE IT A NON-LETHAL BLAST. LET IT KNOW THAT WE BITE.
RIGHT!

RRRA4HHHHH
KKKRRRRZZZZZZ!
SKKRRREEEEEEEEE
SKKRRRREEEEEEEEEEE
G-FORCE

JKREEEEEEEEE
MY GOD! DO YOU THINK IT WILL COME BACK--WAIT! I CAN'T HEAR MYSELF?!
WHAT?
SERGEANT! MAKE SURE IT'S BEING TRACKED! SERGEANT!
Y-YES, SIR?
I SAID MAKE SURE IT'S BEING TRACKED!
MY BOAR IS ATTRACTIVE, SIR...?!
NEXT TIME, WE'RE GONNA NEED EAR-PLUGS!
FORCE
SSRRKKRAAAAW!
CRUNCH!
CRUCCH!

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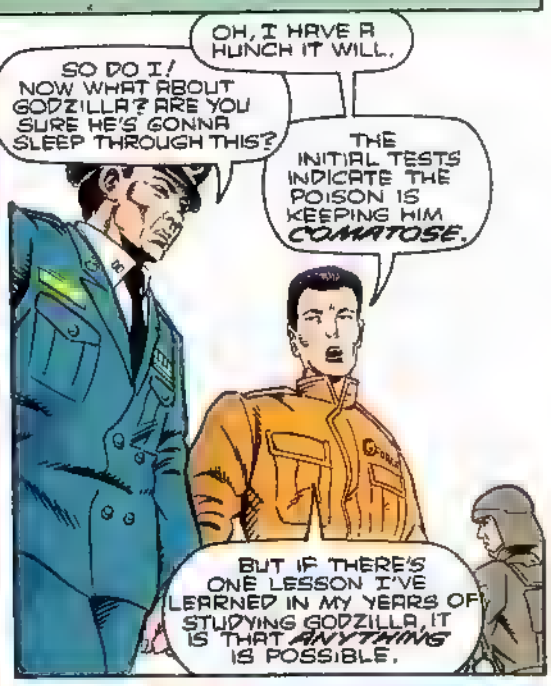
T

A SHORT TIME THEREAFTER, AT G-FORCE HEADQUARTERS...
HRRFF. HRRFF!
HEY, YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
WATCH YOUR STEP, OLD MAN!
GET BACK! GET BACK!
AUUGGH! WHAT IS THIS STUFF?
THAT'S POISON GODZILLA BLOOD! GET TO THE STERILIZATION ROOM NOW! SCRUB YOURSELVES THOROUGHLY-- HURRY!
IT'S ALL CLEAR, NORIKO. DO YOU HAVE EVERYTHING?
YES, I DO. JUST WHAT WAS REALLY IN THAT CONCOCTION, BURTON?
TOMATO SAUCE, ANIMAL REMAINS, AND A FEW HARMLESS CHEMICALS FOR THE SMOKE EFFECT. THAT REMINDS ME, I OWE YOU A PASTA DINNER, DON'T I?
BURTON, YOU'RE TAKING AN AWFUL RISK DOING THIS.
COME ON, NORIKO-- HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT WILL BE BEFORE SOMEONE POINTS OUT THAT I HELPED YOU INJECT GODZILLA?* I'M ON BORROWED TIME ALREADY.

THE NEXT AFTERNOON, AT CAMP GODZILLA...
WELL, DOCTOR, WHAT MIRACLES OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY DO YOU HAVE TO DAZZLE ME WITH TODAY?
SINCE THE CREATURE'S POWER SEEMS TO BE SONIC IN NATURE, WE'RE REFITTING THE BEACON TO BE USED AS A WEAPON.
AND WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT THE SABOTAGE -- OH, I MEAN "MALFUNCTION" PROBLEM?

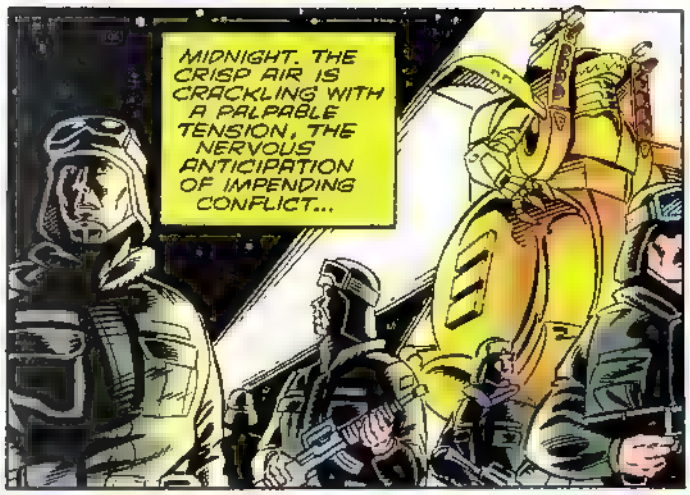
WE HAVE THE BEACON UNDER CONSTANT GUARD, COLONEL. THERE WON'T BE ANY PROBLEMS. INCIDENTALLY, WHAT'S BEING DONE ON YOUR END?
WE'VE BUILT SOME BUNKERS NORTH OF THE CAMP, INSTALLED LONG-RANGE MISSILES SOUTH OF THE CAMP, AND HOOKED UP SPOTLIGHTS EAST OF THE CAMP.
ALL THIS IS, OF COURSE, ASSUMING IT'S COMING BACK.


OH, I HAVE A HUNCH IT WILL.
SO DO I! NOW WHAT ABOUT GODZILLA? ARE YOU SURE HE'S GONNA SLEEP THROUGH THIS?
THE INITIAL TESTS INDICATE THE POISON IS KEEPING HIM COMATOSE.
BUT IF THERE'S ONE LESSON I'VE LEARNED IN MY YEARS OF STUDYING GODZILLA, IT IS THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

ONCE AGAIN, WE'VE AGREED ON SOMETHING, SECOND TIME IN A ROW.

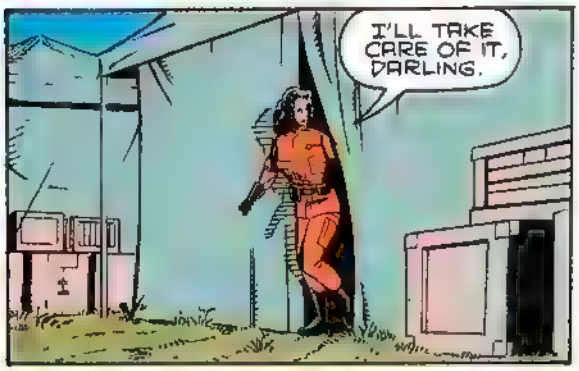
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT'S COMFORTING OR DISCONCERTING.

I'M LEANING TOWARD DISCONCERTING, BUT DON'T QUOTE ME ON THAT.


MIDNIGHT. THE CRISP AIR IS CRACKLING WITH A PALPABLE TENSION, THE NERVOUS ANTICIPATION OF IMPENDING CONFLICT...

HOW ARE YOU DOING, KINO?

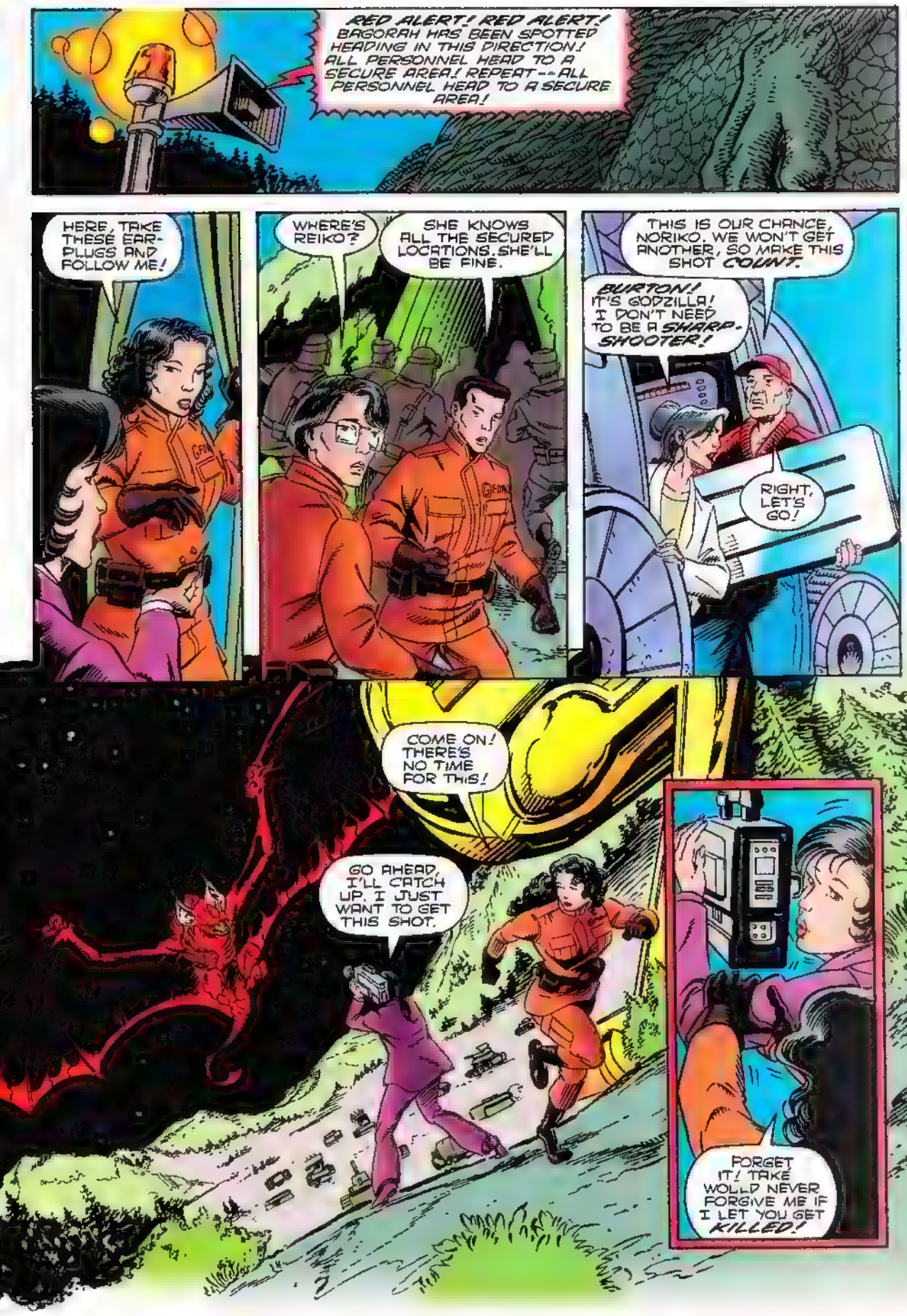
MY BUTT HURTS FROM THIS CHAIR! COULDN'T WE HAVE DESIGNED SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE COMFORTABLE?
THAT'LL BE YOUR NEXT PROJECT
YOU KNOW, I'M GETTING A BAD CONNECTION FROM THE SIGNAL TRANSMITTERS. CAN SOMEONE OOK INTO THAT?


I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT, DARLING.

KLUNK
IS SOMEONE THERE?

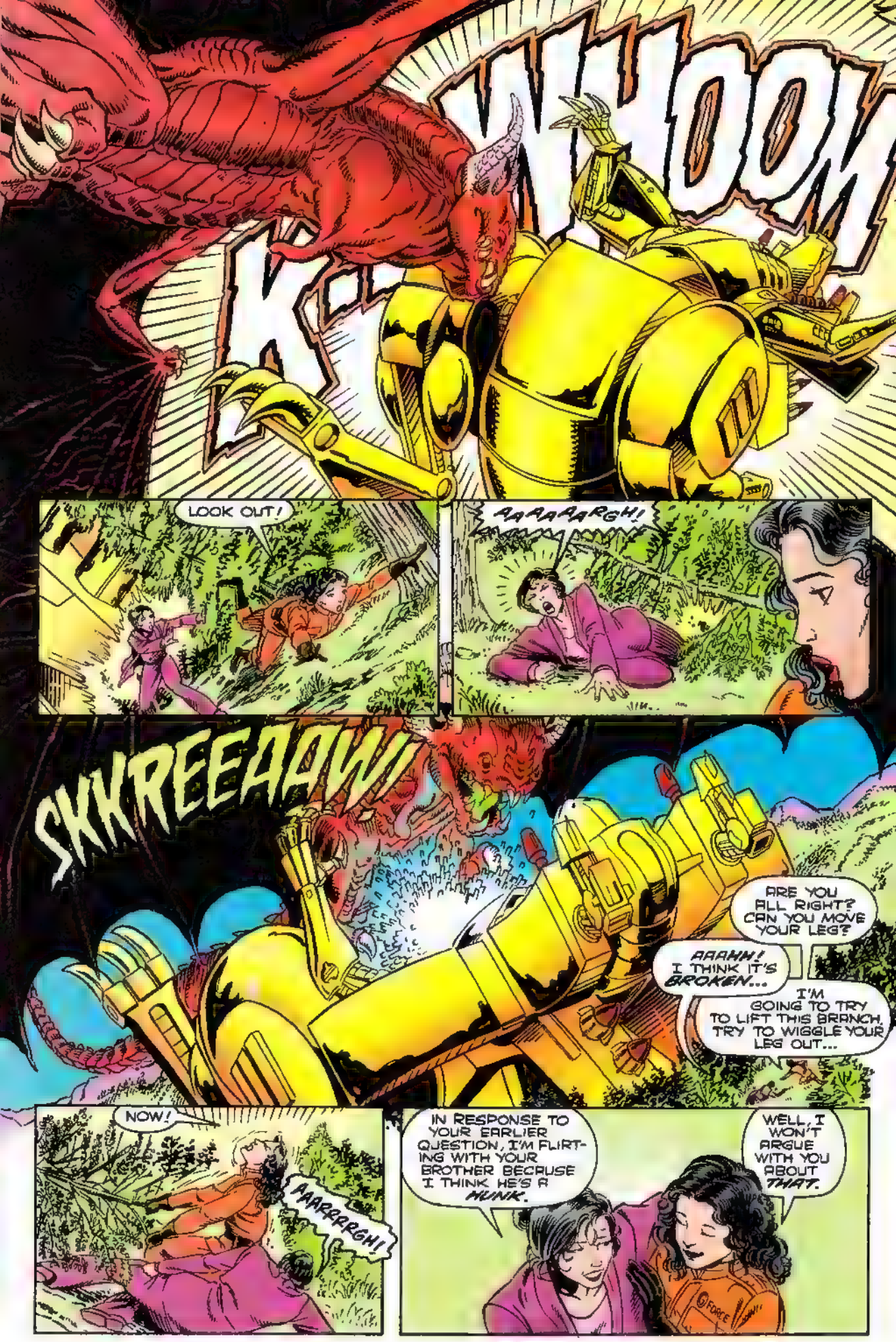
YOU! THE TELEVISION REPORTER! KATE, ISN'T IT?
UH, YES, AND YOU'RE REIKO KAGAKU, CORRECT? UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD BE AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.
I SUPPOSE I DON'T HAVE TO ASK YOU WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE.

LOOK, I DON'T WANT ANYTHING CONFIDENTIAL, I JUST WANT SOMETHING THAT'S A CUT ABOVE THE COMPETITION.
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE FLIRTING WITH MY BROTHER?
WWHHOOOO

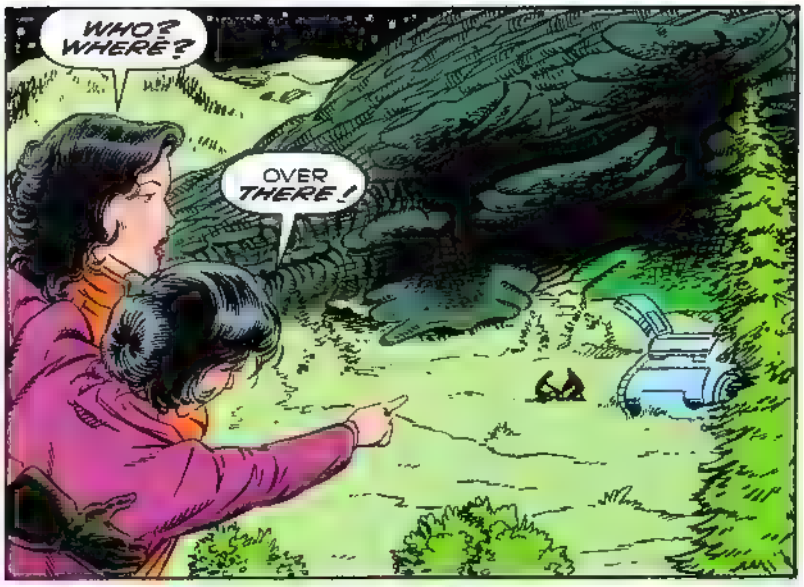

RED ALERT! RED ALERT! BAGORAH HAS BEEN SPOTTED HEADING IN THIS DIRECTION! ALL PERSONNEL HEAD TO A SECURE AREA! REPEAT -- ALL PERSONNEL HEAD TO A SECURE AREA!
HERE, TAKE THESE EAR-PLUGS AND FOLLOW ME!
WHERE'S REIKO?
SHE KNOWS ALL THE SECURED LOCATIONS. SHE'LL BE FINE.
THIS IS OUR CHANCE, NORIKO. WE WON'T GET ANOTHER, SO MAKE THIS SHOT COUNT.
BURTON! IT'S GODZILLA! I DON'T NEED TO BE A SHARP-SHOOTER!
RIGHT, LET'S GO!
COME ON! THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS!
GO AHEAD, I'LL CATCH UP. I JUST WANT TO GET THIS SHOT.
FORGET IT! TAKE WOULD NEVER FORGIVE ME IF I LET YOU GET KILLED!

KINO, HE'S MOVING QUICK--REAL QUICK!
WE'RE READY! RAISE SHIELDS!
SKK REEEEE!
BLAM!
BOOM!
KATE, ARE YOU OKAY?
UUUHHHHH.
IS THAT A YES?
SONIC DISRUPTERS AT YOUR COMMAND, SIR!
HE'S ALMOST IN RANGE...
FIRE!

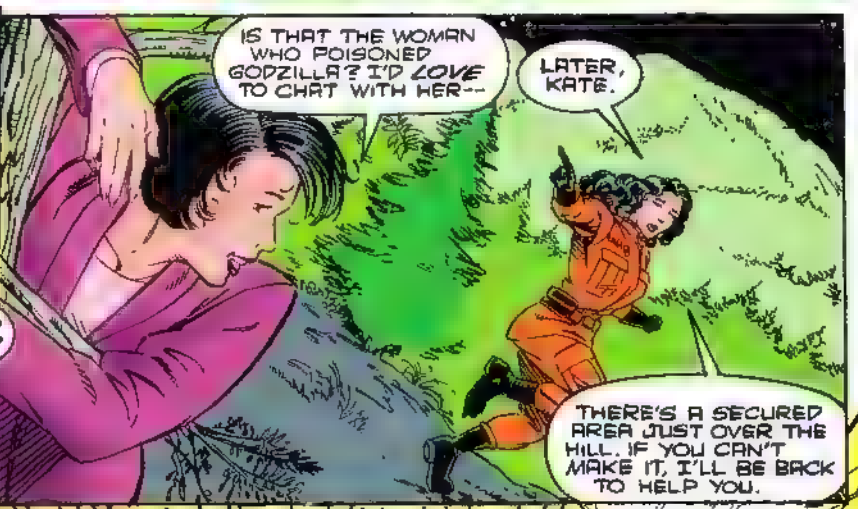
"THE BEACON'S WORKING, DOCTOR! IT'S AFFECTING BAGORAH!
SKKKREEAWWW
"BUT I'M NOT SURE THAT'S TURNING OUT TO BE A GOOD THING!"
SSSKKRRIEE
MOVE-- THERE'S A SECURED AREA JUST BEYOND THOSE TREES!


WHOOM
LOOK OUT!
AAAAAARGH!
SKKREEAAW!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? CAN YOU MOVE YOUR LEG?
AAAHH! I THINK IT'S BROKEN...
I'M GOING TO TRY TO LIFT THIS BRANCH, TRY TO WIGGLE YOUR LEG OUT...
NOW!
AAARRRGH!
IN RESPONSE TO YOUR EARLIER QUESTION, I'M FLIRTING WITH YOUR BROTHER BECAUSE I THINK HE'S A HUNK.
WELL, I WON'T ARGUE WITH YOU ABOUT THAT.

WHO ARE THEY?


WHO? WHERE?
OVER THERE!

PROFESSOR YOSHIWARA!


IS THAT THE WOMAN WHO POISONED GODZILLA? I'D LOVE TO CHAT WITH HER--
LATER, KATE.
THERE'S A SECURED AREA JUST OVER THE HILL. IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT, I'LL BE BACK TO HELP YOU.

IT'S REIKO! TAKE THE SHOT-- I'LL HOLD HER OFF!

PFFFFFFFT
NO!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IT'S DONE, REIKO. WE HAD TO DO IT.
ARE YOU INSANE?

SSKKRRAAWWW!

SKKRAWP
SSKKRAAWWW
WHOOOOSH!
REIKO! GET OUT OF THERE! IT'S COMING YOUR WAY! REIKO!

SSSKKKRRREEEEEEEE!
MOVE IT! MOVE IT! COME ON! YOU CAN DO IT!
SSSHKKREE!
SSRRKRAWKKK
LOOK!

SKRREEEWW!!
SKRREEOONK!
NEXT ISSUE
GODZILLA VS. BAGORAH!

Got Ya!

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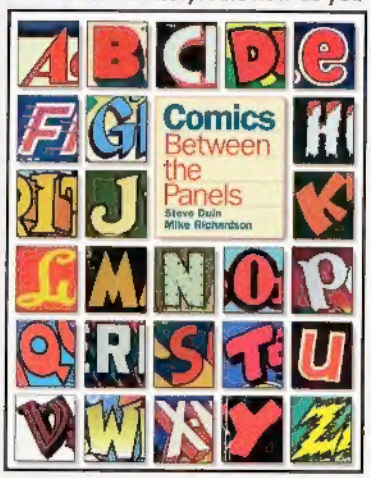
WARNING! COMICS FANS BEWARE!

Comics Between the Panels, by Steve Duin and Mike Richardson, is a dangerous book; a seductive, irresistible trap laid for comics readers. To open this book is to risk being suckered into hours of reading about creators that you may never have heard of, or about comic-book characters in which you were sure you had no interest. One entry leads to another, and each bit of new information becomes a catalyst for searching out another entry on a corresponding piece of comics history. You may say to yourself that you're just going to read about Frank Miller and then put the book down. But before you can get to "Miller" you've got to pass sections on the *Metal Men*, Mickey Mouse, and the Mile High Collection, any one of which is an invitation to stray from your intended goal. And if you turn too far, and page past "Miller"? Then you're into Alan Moore, *More Fun Comics*, and *Mr. Monster* territory. And how do you ignore those? This book is subversive.



See, unlike the many comics histories that have been written that arrange the information in a dry, linear, *Yellow Kid*-to-Image Comics fashion, *Comics Between the Panels* delivers each title, character, creator, and/or significant comics milestone in alphabetical order. That means Jack Kirby's *Young Allies* is right next to Rob Liefeld's *Youngblood*; Lois Lane abuts *Lone Wolf and Cub*. Such close proximity of such disparate subject matter invites wandering to the extent that it nearly precludes serious study. You may think you're going to look up information about grading the condition of old comics, but before you know it, you're meandering around in stories about Archie Goodwin and the many appearances of gorillas on the covers of DC comics.

To sweeten the trap's bait, much of the information comes straight from the source; the real stories and behind-the-scenes anecdotes that have never before been revealed, told by the writers, artists, and editors who were there. The unpretentious, conversational tone in which these stories are presented makes inviting reading, and may keep you up until morning's light.

And did I mention the illustrations? Amazing classic covers, great reproductions of interior pages, and photographs of dozens of famous creators. Ever wonder what Geof Darrow looks like? It's here. What's the fascination with Mac Raboy and Lou Fine covers? See for yourself. What's "Injury-to-the-Eye Motif"? In the book. Open to any page and you're likely to see something that will evoke nostalgic longing — or something new and compelling that will become the cornerstone for future nostalgia.

Cover by Mac Raboy

Once they've lured you in, Duin and Richardson make sure you can never escape. They've provided three separate indexes ("Names," "Subjects," and "Titles") that will lead you further and further into their trap. Suddenly, you find yourself wondering, "Why is John Lennon in a book about comics?" (pages 69, 71) or "'Headlights'? Why is there a subject heading for 'headlights'?" (page 220).

You have been warned. *Comics Between the Panels* is a dangerous book, take it from me. Just don't try to take my copy.

Lost somewhere between "Frank Frazetta" and "Full Figures in Action,"
Randy Stradley

november checklist

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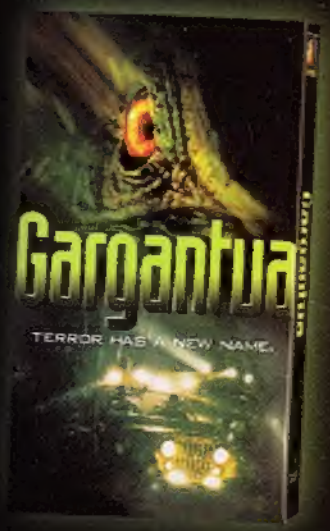

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